

It may be a new year and a new Congress, but Republicans continue to resort to their old tricks and brand of double standards. Throughout the health care debate, Republicans have sought to dominate the dialogue with fear mongering, misinformation, and blind opposition, claiming that the *Affordable Care Act* was passed without adequate time for due consideration or regard for the legislative process.

Despite promises by the new House Leadership to put all bills through regular order, they have rammed through a closed rule for a bill that was not considered by any committees, not debated, and for which no public hearings have been held.

At this time, I would like to point out that in the 111th Congress, House Democrats put the health care reform bill through regular order, having had 79 bipartisan hearings totaling 100 hours, 181 witnesses testify, 239 amendments offered (of which 121 were accepted), and held 3,000 health care town halls and public events in their districts.

Furthermore, compared to the so-called *Repealing the Jobs-Killing Health Care Law Act*, which was posted online just two weeks ago on Monday, January 3rd

, the draft House health care bill was available online 30 days prior to committee mark-up.

It is obvious from the Republicans' actions regarding health care repeal that they have no intention of keeping their promises of openness and transparency. Republicans stand accused of the very same allegations they made in the below quotes:

- **Speaker John Boehner on January 5, 2011, on the House floor:** “*And to my friends in the minority I offer a commitment — openness...*”

- **Chief Deputy Republican Whip Kevin McCarthy on October 10, 2010, on CNN's “State of the Union”** : “*Bills won't be written in the back of the room, where the bills have*

to be laid out for 72 hours, where bills actually have an open rule, where people can bring amendments up on the floor, which any freshman congressman that's sitting there today has never even seen that happen under the rule of Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats."

It is time to put an end to the Republicans' hypocrisies and political gimmicks. We need to focus on getting Americans back to work, not on taking away their access to quality, affordable health care or increasing the deficit through a process that is not open and nothing more than a political stunt.